GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS AND WEAPONS IN TIHAR JAIL
RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unabated smuggling of drugs and weapons in Tihar Jail;

(b) if so, the details of shortcomings and possibility of involvement of Jail officials in such activities;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): No instance of smuggling of weapons inside the Central Jail, Tihar has come to the notice of the Government. However, fourteen (14) cases of smuggling of drugs by prisoners inside the Central Jail, Tihar were detected during last year.

(b)&(c): Around 1000 prisoners are visited by their relatives, friends etc., every day from whom they receive eatables, etc. This gives an opportunity for bringing in prohibited items like tobacco, smack etc. concealed in the eatables and such other items of daily use. However, the jail staff does its best to ensure that such incidents are prevented. In none of the cases of smuggling of such items during last year, the involvement of jail staff was noticed.

(d): The steps taken by the Jail Administration to ensure that the prohibited articles are not passed inside the jail include, searching and frisking of the staff and visitors before entering and leaving the jail premises; surprise searches carried out under the supervision of senior officers; and use of sophisticated gadgets like metal detectors, deep search metal detectors, cellphone detectors by the frisking team to detect prohibited articles.